

Genealogy Resources

Collected by Sylvia M. Thomas /2019

Access Genealogy.com – Enormous genealogy directory. Access DNA, Census Records, Military Records, Databases, Native American Vital Records, African American Cemetery Records, and much more! **FREE!**

American Battle Monument Commission - Free! www.ABMC.gov/ - Burial information about WWI/WWII/ Korean/forces.

American History and Genealogy Project – Specific to each state. www.ahgp.org/ - **FREE!**

Ancestors Lost and Found – **FREE!** www.usgenet.org/org/usa/topic/ancestors

***Ancestry.com** – Paid Subscription required. There is a 14-day free trial. Checkout the **FREE** features!

Ancestry.com - Free databases are available on-line.

AfriGeneas - FREE! www.facebook.com/afrigeneas - African American Genealogy Resource.

Antenati – www.italiangenealogy.com . Italian Vitals by province, town and year.

ArchiveGrid.com – **FREE!** This allows you to find **obscure repositories** that may house your needed evidences/documentations.

How to use- Go to homepage. A map will become visible. Enter a search of the physical location of your area of research using the state/zip code/region/country. Click on the red location pins to explore the identified repositories and their treasure trove.

Archivesindex.sc.gov – On-line SC records of many types.

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries (US) – <http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp> The record you desire may be just across the county line! Updated and interactive maps showing county border changes in the USA.

Billiongraves.com - FREE! Lists, photography, and preservation of cemeteries.

Bureau of Land Management/General Land Office Records – **Free! Records 1776-2015.** www.archives.gov/research/land . (Also available on Ancestry.com).

CastleGarden.com – Immigration. Does not include Ellis Island), before Ellis Island. America's first immigration center.

Charleston Library Society – www.sciway.net/lib/ . Third oldest library in US. Many records were lost in 1778, but many have been restored.

Chronicling America- FREE! www.ChroniclingAmerica.loc.gov . Search historical newspapers. A part of the Library of Congress.

Cyndi's List – Mother of all genealogy resource lists. www.cyndi'slist.com

Daughters of the American Revolution – www.dar.org

David Rumsey's Historical Maps- www.DavidRumsey.com

DeadFred.com – FREE! A genealogy and photo archive. Search using 5 methods (quick search, detailed search, surname search, keyword search and *mystery search!*). Named by creator for his relative, King Frederick III of Germany.

Death and Obit Records – 14-day free trial on Ancestry.com

Digital Public Library of America – FREE! Repository of digital Family Bibles, Photos, Civil War records and more. Bringing together America's archives, repositories, libraries and museums. <https://dp.la>

Documenting the American South – <https://docsouth.unc.edu> – A southern resource collection.

EllisIsland.com- FREE! Immigration/Passenger lists

Family History Centers- FREE! Check both local and distant locations. Many are associated and located with LDS churches. Locations in Seneca (very limited hours), Anderson, Greenville County Library, and Greer. Go to their websites for hours, information, and driving directions.

FamilyOldPhotos.com – FREE! A collection of vintage photos. Use surnames and locations to research.

***FamilySearch.com** – A good all-round and FREE database. Tree management, digital files, microfilm, access to census, and other public records. Owned by the LDS church. I use it to access Family Land Records. Even if the records have fallen victim to fire or flood (“burned out counties”), you will see Books by authors who have compiled evidences through the use of newspapers, probates and other related sources to re-create many of the lost records.

Family Tree Analyzer- FREE software. Current versions available. www.ftanalyzer.com

FindAGrave.com - FREE! World wide database. It includes search abilities for cemetery names and locations as well as great information about many interred individuals.

***FindMyPast.com** – By subscription. A 14-day free trial is available. Helpful British Isle source.

Fold3.com – Military records of all eras. It has a free trial but uses subscription. Owned by and available with Ancestry.com

Freedman's Bureau – Post Civil War Relief. www.history.com/topics/black-history/freedmen's-bureau

Fulton History – Free! www.Fultonhistory.com Search historical newspapers.

Genealogy.com - Search for facts and documents.

GenWeb.com – **This is an oldie but goodie! FREE!** Some states/counties are better than others. I've used FL and AL and they were great! SC, not so good.

Google Books - Public domain books available to read. **FREE!**

Google.com - Search for maps, information, and **images**. Maybe someone else knows or has what you need in their blog posts. Perhaps they have the photo you need or can help identify your unidentified photo! Postcard images can jog memories and enrich the history surrounding your tree. Use Google to find museums, societies, even Facebook groups of interest.

Interment.net – **Free** Cemetery Records.

Internet Archive- A digital library of free and borrowable books. www.archive.org

Jewish GenWeb - **FREE!** Home of Jewish genealogy. www.JewishGen.org

Latin Genealogical Words – **Free!** If you can't translate or don't know the language, these word lists are a gift! Several are on-line. Google it or other language lists of genealogy terms.

Local Libraries – Your free library card allows free access to Ancestry.com and other pay for use databases (US and World Wide)

Low Country Africana (SC/GA/FL) – A really good help especially for the state of South Carolina
<https://lowcountryafricana.com>

***My Heritage.com**- **FREE**

New York Public Library – **FREE!** Not just for New Yorkers! www.nypl.org

National Archives of Scotland and Ireland (other nations, too!)– FREE! Includes national census for the early 1900's. Very helpful to zero in on immigration dates of families and individuals.
www.nrscotland.gov/research/categories-and-indexes and www.nationalarchives.ie .

Olive Tree Genealogy – **Free!** www.Olivetreegenealogy.com

Patriot and Grave Index – **Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). FREE!** www.sar.org .

PERSI - A Periodical and Newspaper Source Index. 14-day free trial or subscription (about \$14/mo after free trial. \$129 for 12 months). Good directions for effective use of their website. Found at www.findmypast.co/persi .

Random Acts of Genealogist Kindness - **FREE!** Volunteers w/o pay. Get free help! <https://raogk.org> .

The Redbook- A reference book listing state, county, and town/city research sources. Edited by Alice Eichholz, Ph.D., C.G./Publisher, Ancestry.com

Research Guides – FREE! From Ancestry.com, there are many, many topics.

Rootsweb.com – FREE! An oldie but a goodie! Now owned by Ancestry.com. It includes some **free features** of Ancestry.com

Sandborn Maps at the Library of Congress. Free! These maps are sometimes called Fireman’s maps. They were created to help fire insurance agents estimate property values and then insure urban property. www.loc.gov/collections/sanborn-maps .

SlaveVoyages.org – An awesome database that documents individuals associated with the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

South Carolina Genealogical Society – Greenville, SC, www.scgen.org/index . Publishes *The Carolina Herald*.

South Carolina Historical Society – www.schistory.com - Also publishes *The Carolina Historical Magazine*.

State and University Libraries and Special Collections- Examples:

Gov William Henry Lytteton Collection, 1756-1760. Lots of Indian information/gov. *documents*

UNC – Berryhill Collection

South Carolina Library, University of SC, This repository holds a great number of early state genealogy items. www.facebook.com/USCaroliniana.

State Archives – www.SCArchives.com

Stephen P Morse - A guru in genealogy. Vitals and Census tools to help you find your ancestors and info about them. **FREE!** www.stevemorse.org

Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Data Base – Free! <https://hutchinscenter.fas.harvard.edu/trans-atlantic-slave-trade-database>

WorldCat.com – Hugh on-line card catalog with abilities to search libraries world-wide. If a book is out of print, this is a life saver. **How to use-** *Go to the website, type in a book title, fragments of the title, or general terms related to the book. Scroll and click on “Find a copy in the library”. A list of libraries/repositories that have copies of the book in question will appear with the closest physical location listed first. You can then **visit** the closest/best location, **arrange an inter-library loan** through your local library or, explore the “similar items” offering.*

On-line Courses/Webinars

Ancestry’s Academy- Legacy Family Tree Webinars on Basic Research Skills, DNA, Location Based Research. Webinars are **Free**. Courses have a tuition.

AmericanAncestors.com-

Uncommon Genealogy Resources-FREE!

- 1) Family letters and mailed postcards collections
- 2) Baby books
- 3) Wedding guestbooks
- 4) Church directories
- 5) Facebook Groups
- 6) Pinterest boards
- 7) Private collections
- 8) Merchant records/ledgers

Blogs

- 1) Lisalisson.com- She is a GREAT and knowledgeable teacher.
- 2) SouthernAncestors.com – Explains certain cultural items.
- 3) Familyhistoryfanatics.com – Knowledgeable blog owners.
- 4) Commonsurnames.com
- 5) Thinkingoutsidethebox.com
- 6) Ancestry.com blog
- 7) FamilySearch.com
- 8) Tips to Find that Elusive Ancestor- google it!

Other Hints

Learn the laws of the time related to marriage requirements. Example: Before 1853, Marriages in VA were recorded by ministers with the County Clerk. No time restraints or deadlines. Some ministers were timely, others were not...yearly, never, or forgot! So, the registration of marriages was inconsistent at best. After 1853, VA state time requirements procedures became law. So, marriages before 1853, search locally. After 1853, include a state level search.

Types of Marriage Records in History

1. Intent to Marry- Taking of a marriage license from the county Courthouse. Does not prove actual marriage.
2. Banns – Christian churches (Anglican, Catholic, Others) read the announcement of upcoming marriages for 3 consecutive Sundays. If there was no voiced objection, the couple was able to marry. Does not prove actual marriage.
3. Bonds – Grooms and Bondsmen swore there was no legal reason the marriage should not happen. Doesn't prove actual marriage.
4. Licenses/Registration – Banns and Bonds gave way to licenses plus registrations. Marriage was not proven or legal unless the license was returned to the courthouse and signed by the officiant. Those returned licenses usually included the parent names, locations of the legal ceremony and possibly the parent occupations.
5. Then there is Common Law Marriages. In SC, if you live together for 2 weeks or more in the state, it is considered marriage! Example: Actor, William Hurt, during the filming of the movie, The Big Chill, in Beaufort and surrounding areas of SC, had a live-in who later claimed that they were married according to SC Law. She won the suit!

Know the Laws and Customs of the Time

1. Know the history and evolution of the governmental jurisdictions of the area you are researching.

Examples:

- A) SC governmental jurisdictions began in the Colony of Carolina (SC and NC together, as one). During that time of the colony and Lords Proprietors there were parishes, then came counties, then districts, then back to counties, and then even more changes, like creating new counties by the division of the older and earlier counties. So, the document records you seek may be in the courthouse OR a neighboring courthouse, or even a district facility!
 - B) There was no Cherokee Co, SC before 1900. In the closing months of the 1800's, several new counties were created. Cherokee Co, was carved from Spartanburg, Union and York Counties during those days.
 - C) Before the last SC/Indian land treaties and the 1831 Trail of Tears that removed the Creek and Cherokee Tribes from the southern states of the United States, the areas that are now Oconee and Pickens Counties were Indian lands and extended from the Chattooga and other Savannah River Basin tributaries, east to the Reedy River/falls area in downtown Greenville, SC. In those days, Greenville was not called Greenville, it was called Pleasantburg.
- 2) Frequently use and follow your FAN connections. FAN stands for Family, Associates, Neighbors. Particularly in the South, families bought properties near each other, frequently served as witnesses on legal transactions for each other, and when families migrated to new land holdings in other areas, many times they moved to a location together or in groups and in waves.
 - 3) When using jurisdictional probate records, check and document the buyer, the witnesses, adjoining property owners listed on land grant plats themselves and in the verbal description of the boundaries of the grant. Look for their connections to your tree. Sometimes they were family, sometimes they were just neighbors. Many times, the families eventually inter-married and sometimes you will even find that they housed widows who belong on your tree. CONNECTIONS! Look for the connections!
 - 4) You will find that New England had birth records, marriage records, and death records in both the church and governmental repositories, but not so much in the south region of the US. In the south, the information is there, but just in a different place. In the south, that information is in the will, the probate, and the family Bibles. As they say, "Follow the money! Genealogists say, "Follow the property!". Use your land grants, deeds, wills, and probates to document the names of children and to fully develop your tree. In general, marriage records were the best kept record in an area. Why? Because only legitimate children could inherit! In historical times, illegitimate children had no rights to claim inheritance unless named specifically in the will.

Information to Help Date Old Photographs

Daguerreotypes – 1840-1860
Ambrotypes - 1854-1868
Tintypes – 1856-1878
Carte de Visite – 1859-1889
Cabinet Cards – 1866- 1903

Related books and Websites

[Fashionable Folks: Bonnets and Hats 1840-1900](#)

by Maureen A. Taylor. Available on Amazon

[Victorian Fashions and Costumes From Harper's Bazaar 1867-1890](#) (Dover Fashion and Costumes) by Stella Blum. Available on Amazon.

[Fashionable Folk's Hairstyles 1840-1900](#) by Maureen Taylor. Available on Amazon.

www.HistoricalEmporium.com – Research men's fashions.

www.FashionEra.com – Research women's fashions.

www.Phototree.com – Help in identifying photograph subjects by dating the fashions in the photo.

Library of Congress- Use their photo, prints, and drawing collections to compare with your photos

www.AncestralFindings.com - Research Old Photography Studios in the USA, as a help to identify 19th century photos.

www.archives.gov – Pictures of the Civil War in the National Archives.

www.FamilyOldPhotos.com – Collection of vintage photos. Explore by using surnames and locations.

Cemetery Work

Rubbings can be harmful to the stones, but many can't be read. Try using THIN aluminum foil and a soft brush or sponge to "rub" unreadable or important stones. If they are readable, take photos as your evidence.

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